

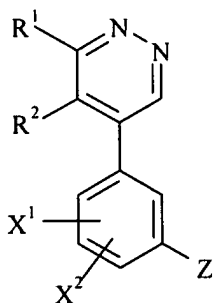
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-35 without prejudice and insert therefore new Claims 36-45. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-35 (canceled)

36. (new) A compound of the formula I:



(I)

wherein:

X¹ is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, halogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, trifluoromethyl and C₁₋₆ alkoxy;

X² is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen and halogen;

Z is pyridyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of: halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, nitro, C₁₋₆ alkyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, oxy, C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonyl, amino, aminocarbonyl, formyl, C₂₋₆ alkoxy carbonyl and -CH=NOH;

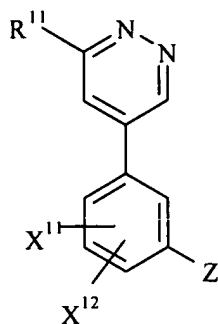
R¹ is selected from the group consisting of:

phenyl, halophenyl, dihalophenyl, (C₁₋₆ alkyl)(halo)phenyl, (trifluoromethyl)(halo)phenyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxyphenyl, (C₁₋₆ alkoxy)(halo)phenyl, cyanophenyl, (cyano)(halo)phenyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₂₋₆ alkenyloxy, phenyl(C₁₋₆)alkoxy, trifluoromethanesulfonyloxy, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ alkylamino, C₂₋₆ alkenylamino, C₃₋₇ cycloalkylamino, C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl, phenyl(C₁₋₆)alkylamino (which is unsubstituted or substituted by C₁₋₆ alkoxy), and heteroaryl, wherein heteroaryl is selected from the group consisting of pyridinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, furyl, thienyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, imidazolyl, oxadiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, triazolyl and tetrazolyl, and wherein the heteroaryl is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more halogen;

R² is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, methoxycarbonyl and ethoxycarbonyl;

or an N-oxide thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

37. (new) The compound of Claim 36 of the formula IIA:



(IIA)

wherein:

X¹¹ is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, methyl, trifluoromethyl and methoxy;

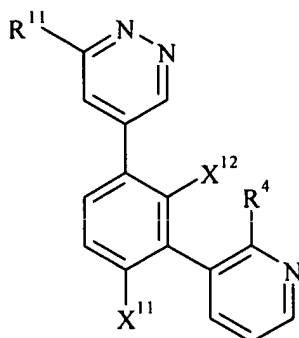
X¹² is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen and fluoro; and

R¹¹ is selected from the group consisting of:

phenyl, fluorophenyl, chlorophenyl, difluorophenyl, (chloro)(fluoro)phenyl, trifluorophenyl, (fluoro)(methyl)phenyl, (fluoro)(trifluoromethyl)phenyl, methoxyphenyl, (fluoro)(methoxy)phenyl, cyanophenyl, (cyano)(fluoro)phenyl, oxo-pyrrolidinyl, dihydropyrrolyl, pyridinyl, fluoro-pyridinyl, difluoro-pyridinyl, oxo-pyridinyl, pyrazinyl, furyl, thienyl, thiazolyl, triazolyl, methoxy, ethoxy, allyloxy, benzyloxy, triflyloxy, ethylthio, tert-butylthio, methylamino, ethylamino, propylamino, isopropylamino, allylamino, cyclopropylamino, cyclohexylamino, benzylamino, methoxybenzyl-amino and ethoxycarbonyl.

38. (new) The compound of Claim 37 wherein Z is selected from the group consisting of: pyridinyl, fluoro-pyridinyl, difluoro-pyridinyl, (amino)(chloro)pyridinyl, cyano-pyridinyl, methyl-pyridinyl, hydroxy-pyridinyl, methoxy-pyridinyl, oxy-pyridinyl, and aminocarbonyl-pyridinyl.

39. (new) The compound of Claim 38 of the formula IIC:

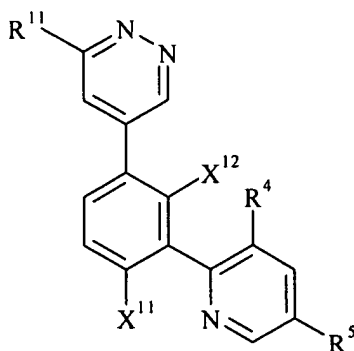


(IIC)

wherein:

R⁴ represents hydrogen, fluoro, cyano or methyl.

40. (new) The compound of Claim 38 of the formula IID:



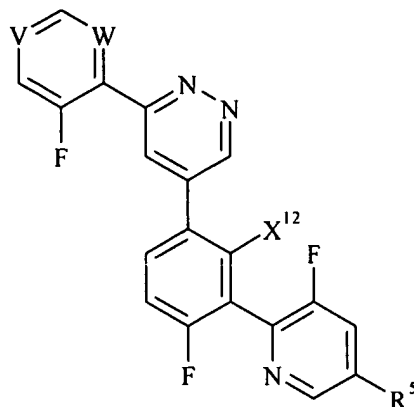
(IID)

wherein:

R⁴ represents hydrogen, fluoro, cyano or methyl; and

R⁵ represents hydrogen or fluoro.

41. (new) The compound of Claim 40 of the formula IIE:



(IIE)

wherein:

V represents N and W represents CF; or

V represents CF and W represents N; or

V and W both represent CF.

42. (new) A compound which is selected from the group consisting of:

5-[2-fluoro-3-(pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]3-phenylpyridazine;

3-phenyl-5-[3-(pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]pyridazine;

5-[2,4-difluoro-3-(pyridin-4-yl)phenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;

5-[4-fluoro-3-(pyridin-4-yl)phenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;

5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;

3-phenyl-5-[3-(pyridin-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]pyridazine;

5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-4-yl)phenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;

5-[2-fluoro-3-(pyridin-4-yl)phenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;

5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;

5-[4-fluoro-3-(pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;

5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-pyridazine;

5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(2-fluorophenyl)pyridazine;

5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(2-fluorophenyl)-pyridazine;

5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(pyridin-3-yl)pyridazine;

5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(3-fluorophenyl)-pyridazine;

3-(2,4-difluorophenyl)-5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-pyridazine;
5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(3-methoxyphenyl)-pyridazine;
5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-pyridazine;
3-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-pyridazine;
2-{5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]pyridazin-3-yl}-5-fluorobenzonitrile;
3-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]pyridazine;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(furan-3-yl)pyridazine;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(furan-2-yl)pyridazine;
3-(2,3-difluorophenyl)-5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-pyridazine;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(thien-3-yl)pyridazine;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(thien-2-yl)pyridazine;
3-(2,5-difluorophenyl)-5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-pyridazine;
3-(3,4-difluorophenyl)-5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-pyridazine;
4-{5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]pyridazin-3-yl} benzonitrile;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(pyridin-4-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(pyridin-3-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(pyridin-4-yl)pyridazine;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(pyrazin-2-yl)pyridazine;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(thiazol-2-yl)pyridazine;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(pyridin-2-yl)pyridazine;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(3-fluoropyridin-4-yl)pyridazine;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(1H-[1,2,3]triazol-4-yl)pyridazine;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid ethyl ester;
5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(2-fluorophenyl)-pyridazine-1-oxide;
3-(2,6-difluorophenyl)-5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-pyridazine;
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

43. (new) A compound which is selected from the group consisting of:

3-(4-chloro-2-fluorophenyl)-5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]pyridazine;
5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(2-fluoro-4-trifluoromethylphenyl)pyridazine;
5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(2-fluoro-4-methylphenyl)-pyridazine;
3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]pyridazine;

trifluoromethanesulfonic acid 5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]pyridazin-3-yl ester;
3-ethylsulfanyl-5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]pyridazine;
3-tert-butylsulfanyl-5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]pyridazine;
5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(3-fluoropyridin-4-yl)-pyridazine;
5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-pyridazine;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-pyridazine;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(3-fluoropyridin-4-yl)-pyridazine 1-oxide;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(3-fluoro-1-oxypyridin-4-yl)-pyridazine;
5-[2,4-difluoro-3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-4-yl)pyridazine;
5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(2-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)pyridazine;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(2-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)-pyridazine;
3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-4-yl)-5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]pyridazine;
3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]pyridazine;
3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-4-yl)-5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]pyridazine;
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

44. (new) The compound of Claim 36 which is selected from the group consisting of:

3-(3,5-difluoro-1-oxypyridin-4-yl)-5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluoro-phenyl]pyridazine;
2-{5-[6-(3,5-difluoropyridin-4-yl)pyridazin-4-yl]-2-fluorophenyl}-nicotinonitrile;
2-{5-[6-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)pyridazin-4-yl]-2-fluorophenyl}-nicotinonitrile;
3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-5-(4-fluoro-3-trifluoromethylphenyl)pyridazine;
3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-5-(6-fluoro-2'-trifluoromethylbiphenyl-3-yl)-pyridazine;
5-(6,2'-difluorobiphenyl-3-yl)-3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)pyridazine;
3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-5-(6,2',4'-trifluorobiphenyl-3-yl)pyridazine;
5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(2,4,6-trifluorophenyl)-pyridazine;
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

45. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of Claim 36, or an N-oxide thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.